

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BLANTY 00603 071559Z

43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 SP-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

DRC-01 /106 W

----- 062234

R 071210Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7031

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MI, ZA

SUBJ: KAUNDA VISIT TO MALAWI

REF: A. BLANTYRE 594 B. BLANTYRE 592

1. PRESIDENT KAUNDA OF ZAMBIA PAID WHIRLWIND ONE-DAY VISIT TO MALAWI MAY 6. ACCOMPANIED THROUGHOUT BY PRESIDENT BANDA, KAUNDA TOURED BLANTYE AND ZOMBA AREAS AND HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH BANDA AT STATE HOUSE, ZOMBA. KAUNDA MADE NO PUBLIC STATEMENT DURING VISIT.

2. IMMEDIATELY AFTER DEPARTURE OF KAUNDA, PRESIDENT BANDA HELD INFORMAL PRESS CONFERENCE IN AIRPORT VIP LOUNGE. BANDA SAID KAUNDA'S TRIP HAD BEEN PURELY PRIVATE ONE, UNDERTAKEN AT KAUNDA'S INITIATIVE. TRIP HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 1973 BUT BANDA'S PERSONAL SCHEDULE AND PARTY CONVENTION HAD FORCED POSTPONEMENT. BANDA SAID KAUNDA WAS IMPRESSED BY WHAT HE SAW IN MALAWI AND BY HAPPINESS AND PROSPERITY OF MALAWI PEOPLE.

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PAGE 02 BLANTY 00603 071559Z

3. BANDA SAID HE AND KAUNDA DISCUSSED "MANY TOPICS" INCLUDING TRADE AND TRANSPORTATION. BANDA DECLINED TO SAY WHAT OTHER SUBJECTS WERE COVERED, BUT STRESSED THAT HE AND KAUNDA HAD "NO DIFFERENCES" OF VIEW IN DISCUSSIONS.

4. BANDA TOLD PRESS CONFERENCE THAT VISIT HAD PROVED TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA FALSEHOOD OF CLAIMS BY MALAWI DISSIDENTS IN ZAMBIA AND TANZANIA THAT BANDA RULED ONLY THROUGH OPPRESSION BY ARMY, POLICE AND YOUNG PIONEERS. ANYONE WHO STILL THROUGH PRESIDENT KAUNDA AND DR. NYERERE (SIC) STILL SUPPORTED ANTI-BANDA MALAWI DISSIDENTS WAS IN FOR A RUDE SHOCK.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: FROM BLANTYRE PERSPECTIVE BANDA APPEARS TO HAVE MADE CLEVER P.R. USE OF KAUNDA VISIT. VISIT WAS PRECEDED BY FRESH PUBLIC STATEMENT BY BANDA ON "CONTACT AND DIALOGUE" POLICY AND ROLE MALAWI PLAYED IN CONNECTION WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL AND MOZAMBIQUE (REF B). THEN, IN STATEMENT AFTER KAUNDA DEPARTURE, BANDA DEPICTED ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT AS AGREEING WITH HIS POLICIES AND SUPPORTING HIM ON SUCH QUESTIONS AS MALAWI DISSIDENTS. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE REAL PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS TO DISCUSS EVENTS IN PORTUGAL AND IMPLICATIONS FOR MOZAMBIQUE. MALAWIANS, HOWEVER, ARE STILL CAREFULLY AVOIDING PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF WHAT, IF ANY, SPECIFICS ON THIS SUBJECT WERE COVERED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, PRESS CONFERENCES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BLANTY00603
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740110-0502
From: BLANTYRE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740570/aaaackae.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. BLANTYRE 594 B. BLANTYRE 592
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <05 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KAUNDA VISIT TO MALAWI
TAGS: PFOR, MI, ZA, (KAUNDA, KENNETH D), (BANDA, H KAMUZU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005